

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 XMB-02 TRSE-00

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P 101015Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8510

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT: WATER RESOURCES PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY PLANNING

REF: A) GABORONE 1434; B) STATE 196218

1. IECO FEASIBILITY STUDY FORWARDED TO VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE MAY 25 UNDER COVER OF LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR SOLICITING GOB RESPONSE. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE HAS BEEN NO ANSWER. EMBASSY HAS FORWARDED TO VICE PRESIDENT INFORMATION ON FINANCING CONTAINED REF B AND ASKED THAT HE RECEIVE CONTINENTAL BANK REPS AUGUST 23. EMBASSY ALSO ATTEMPTING TO ACQUAINT MINERAL RESOURCE MINISTRY PERMANENT SECRETARY B. GAOLATHE WITH PROPOSAL AND TO OBTAIN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM FOR BANK REPS ON SAME DATE. WILL ADVISE.

2. TO PROMOTE FURTHER CONTACT BETWEEN GOB AND IECO OFFICIALS, RECOMMEND DESK OFFICER HAVE IIE PROGRAM MINISTER OF MINERAL RESOURCES SEGOKGO TO VISIT SAN FRANCISCO FOR VISIT TO IECO MAIN OFFICE (SEE REF A).

3. PRIOR RECEIPT REF B, EMBOFF MET AUGUST 3 WITH ACTING HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS, B.H. WILSON, IN EFFORT TO SOLICIT SOME GOB REACTION TO IECO FEASIBILITY STUDY. PROPOSAL HAD NOT YET FILTERED DOWN TO TECHNICAL LEVEL. HOWEVER, WILSON STUDIED COPY OF PROPOSAL BROUGHT BY EMBOFF AND MADE
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FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A. BOTSWANA IS ON METRIC SYSTEM, BUT IECO PROPOSAL USES "ACRE-FEET" AND SQUARE MILES".

B. RAINFALL FIGURES ON PAGE 2 OF SECTION II ARE INCORRECT.

C. GOB PREFERS COMPANIES WITH MORE EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA THAN IECO.

D. IECO PROPOSAL OVERLAPS WITH OTHER PROJECTS ALREADY IN PROGRESS AND MUCH OF PROPOSAL HAS ALREADY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY SOMEONE ELSE. "THE ONLY ANSWER TO THIS PROPOSAL IS "NO".

4. WHEN ASKED TO NAME AREAS IN WHICH IECO COULD BEST CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS IN BOTSWANA, WILSON REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING OPEN AT THE MOMENT. TOO HE DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD BE WORTH THE WHILE FOR IECO TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO BOTSWANA A SECOND TIME TO DISCUSS PROGRAM WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. RATHER, IECO SHOULD WRITE TO CENTRAL TENDER BOARD, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, THE MINISTRY OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND WATER AFFAIRS IN ORDER TO GET ITS NAME IN FRONT OF THE GOVERNMENT IN CASE SOMETHING DOES COME UP.

5. WILSON IS BRITISH CHIEF HYDROLOGIST WHO HAS SPENT ELEVEN YEARS IN BOTSWANA. WHILE HIS REACTION TO PROPOSAL SOUNDED UNRESERVEDLY NEGATIVE, BASIC DECISIONS TO MOVE AHEAD ON SUCH PROJECTS ARE NOT TAKEN AT LEVEL OF DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS.

5. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE. BOLEN

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